

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus [toothbrush] comprising:
a toothbrush handle;
a toothbrush head extending from the toothbrush handle; and
a plurality of tufts of bristles extending from the head, the tufts of bristles sized such that multiple tufts of bristles can be placed beside each other in a direction generally orthogonal to the handle, each tuft of bristles being supported for rotation about only one axis, each tuft of bristles being rotatable independent of one another [the other tuft(s) of bristles].
2. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein each tuft has a range of rotation of about 60 degrees.
3. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein each tuft can rotate about 30 degrees to either side of a vertical position in which the tuft is perpendicular to a top surface of the head.
4. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, further including at least one tooth cleaning element which cannot be rotated.
5. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein each tuft includes at its non-brushing end a bearing which is substantially cylindrical in shape in its major portion, each bearing being secured in its own hollow space within the head, each bearing allowing rotation of its respective tuft.

6. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 5, wherein the head is made of at least two pieces which are joined together to secure the bearing within the head.

7. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 5, wherein a viscous substance is provided in each hollow space in the head to provide some resistance to rotation of the tufts.

8. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein a portion of the head limits rotation of each tuft.

9. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein the tufts are rotated by contact with a portion of an oral cavity.

10. (Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein each tuft includes at its non-brushing end a living hinge, each living hinge being secured partially within the head, each living hinge allowing rotation of its respective tuft.

11. (Twice Amended) The apparatus [toothbrush] of claim 1, wherein the axis about which each tuft is rotatable is substantially perpendicular to a long axis of the [element] tuft.

12. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a toothbrush head; and
a first group of tooth cleaning elements extending from the head and a second group of a plurality of tooth cleaning elements extending from the head,
the elements within each of the groups being of a common type and the type of elements in the first group being different from the type of elements in the second group, and
wherein each of the elements of the first group is nonrotatable, and

wherein each of the elements in the second group is supported for rotation about only one axis and independently rotatable with respect to one another and any other rotatable tooth cleaning element on the toothbrush head, the elements of the second group sized such that multiple elements of the second group can be placed beside each other in a direction generally orthogonal to a maximum dimension of the toothbrush head.

13. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein all of the tooth cleaning elements of the toothbrush are in the first and second group.

14. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first group includes a plurality of tooth cleaning elements.

15. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein each of the elements in the second group is adjacent to at least one of the elements in the first group.

16. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the interproximal residence time of elements in the second group is about 1.6 times or greater than the interproximal residence time of the elements in the first group.

17. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the elements in the second group are longer than the elements in the first group.

18. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the elements in the second group are made of polymer.

19. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein each of the elements in the second group is a fin or tuft of bristles.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein each of the elements in the second group is a fin.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein each of the elements in the first group is a tuft of bristles.

22. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a handle, and wherein the head extends from the handle.

23. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the axis about which each element in the second group is rotatable is substantially perpendicular to a long axis of the element.

24. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the elements in the first group are free of spring bias tending to rotate the elements after deflection.

25. (Four Times Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a toothbrush head; and
a plurality of tufts of bristles extending from the head, each tuft of bristles being supported for rotation about only one axis, each tuft of bristles being rotatable independent of all other rotatable tuft(s) of bristles on the toothbrush head, the tufts of bristles sized such that multiple tufts of bristles can be placed beside each other in a direction generally orthogonal to a maximum dimension of the toothbrush head,
further including at least one tooth cleaning element which cannot be rotated.

26. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each tuft has a range of rotation of about 60 degrees.

27. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each tuft can rotate about 30 degrees to either side of a vertical position in which the tuft is perpendicular to a top surface of the head.

28. Cancelled.

29. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each tuft includes at its non-brushing end a bearing which is substantially cylindrical in shape in its major portion, each bearing being secured in its own hollow space within the head, each bearing allowing rotation of its respective tuft.

30. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the head is made of at least two pieces which are joined together to secure the bearing within the head.

31 (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein a viscous substance is provided in each hollow space in the head to provide some resistance to rotation of the tufts.

32 (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein a portion of the head limits rotation of each tuft.

33 (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the tufts are rotated by contact with a portion of an oral cavity.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each tuft includes at its non-brushing end a living hinge, each living hinge being secured partially within the head, each living hinge allowing rotation of its respective tuft.

35. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the axis about which each tuft is rotatable is substantially perpendicular to a long axis of the element.

36. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a handle.

37-116. Canceled.

117. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the type of elements in the first group is structurally different from the type of elements in the second group.

118. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the type of elements in the first group is compositionally different from the type of elements in the second group.

119. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the type of elements in the first group is structurally and compositionally different from the type of elements in the second group.

120. (Previously Added) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the elements in the first group are rigidly secured to the toothbrush head.

121-131. (Canceled)

132. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein two or more of the tufts of bristles are disposed in a row extending generally laterally across a long axis of the toothbrush handle.

133. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein two or more of elements of the second group are disposed in a row extending generally laterally across a long axis of the toothbrush head.

134. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein two or more of the tufts of bristles are disposed in a row extending generally laterally across a long axis of the toothbrush head.